of Dry Dates. Subsequently on 30th June, 1987 NCCF was directed to provide all the documents and papers relating to the case to the CBI for investigations. In the absence of the relevant documents, the NCCF could not serve the charge sheet to CAF, framed in July, 1987. The CBI have not so far furnished their report in respect of the case.

Release of Levy Sugar to the Mill Owners for Free Sale

511. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total quantity of levy sugar released to the mill owners for free sale during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 stating the conditions on which it was released for free sale;

(b) whether the quantity of sugar released for free sale during these years has been duly made good for levy sugar by the mill owners; and

(c) if not, what is the quantity of sugar which is yet to be returned for levy sugar stating the reasons for not returning the levy sugar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No quantity out of levy sugar share of the factories was released as free-sale sugar during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Voluntary Consumer Organisations for checking exploitation of Consumers

512. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have underlined the need to involve Voluntary Consumer Organisations to ensure quality control of consumer products and to check exploitation by unscrupulous trade etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the Voluntary Consumer Organisations which have shown their keen interest in this regard;

(c) whether Government have urged the State Governments to encourage Voluntary Consumer Organisations; and

(d) if so, the details of help Government propose to give to State Governments to boost such activities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are approximately 300 voluntary consumer organisations working in the country. The particulars of some of the consumer organisations working in this field are annexed. (*See* statement below).

(c) The Union Government has urged the State Governments, on various forums, to encourage voluntary consumer organisations particularly in rural areas. They have also been advised to give representation to non-official members representing consumer interest in the State Councils.

(d) The Union Government provides financial assistance to State Governments/ UT Administrations to organise regional/ state level seminars on Consumer Protection, to create awareness amongst the consumers and voluntary consumer organisations.

Statement

List of the Voluntary Consumer Organisations

1. Consumer Guidance Society of Jamshedpur, Jamshedpur.
2. Consumers' Forum, Chandigarh.
3. Consumer Guidance Society of India, Bombay.
4. Consumer Unity and Trust Society, Jaipur.
5. Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad.
6. Consumers' Action Forum, Calcutta etc.